

## REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment to the specification is made to claim priority to the identified PCT and Great Britain patent applications, to present the Abstract on a separate sheet, and to incorporate sequence identifiers for the nucleic acid sequences recited in the application.

The preliminary amendment presented above also amends the claims to reflect the amendments entered during the international stage, to remove claim dependencies, and to otherwise conform to United States practice.

In particular, claim 11 has been amended to more specifically define the level of homology of the nucleotide sequence and now recites "a nucleotide sequence which is at least 50% homologous to mRNA transcribed from an abnormally spliced Bcl-2 gene." Support for this amendment can be found on page 7, lines 6-8 of the originally filed specification.

Claim 22 has been amended to more specifically define the level of homology of the nucleic acid molecule and now recites "a nucleic acid molecule which has at least 50% homology to and hybridizes to a nucleic acid sequence of (a)." Support for this amendment is found on page 7, lines 6-8.

In addition claims 17 and 19 have been amended to more particularly define the nucleotide construct and recite "capable of silencing the expression of an abnormally spliced Bcl-2 gene." Support for the amendment to claims 17 and 19 is found throughout the specification.

Applicants believe that no new matter is added by the claim amendments and their entry and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen A. Magri  
Registration No. 41,965

**Customer No. 20792**

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.  
P. O. Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: (919) 854-1400  
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401